

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) A process for oxidizing a ~~carbohydrate or a steroid containing primary alcohol groups~~ polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of alpha-glucans, mannans, galactans, and fructans, comprising reacting said ~~carbohydrate or steroid~~ polysaccharide with an oxidizing agent selected from the group consisting of oxygen, hydrogen peroxide, alkyl, aryl and aralkyl hydroperoxides and chlorite, in the presence of a nitroxyl compound and in the presence of an enzyme capable of oxidation, in an aqueous medium, or in a mixture of water with an alcohol, an ether or a water-immiscible organic solvent.

20. (currently amended) [[A]] The process according to Claim 19, wherein the nitroxyl compound is a di-tert-nitroxyl compound.

21. (currently amended) [[A]] The process according to Claim 19, wherein the enzyme capable of oxidation is an oxidoreductase.

22. (currently amended) [[A]] The process according to Claim 21, wherein the enzyme is a peroxidase, and the oxidizing agent is hydrogen peroxide.

23. (currently amended) [[A]] The process according to Claim 21, wherein the enzyme is a polyphenol oxidase or a laccase and the oxidizing agent is oxygen.

24. (currently amended) [[A]] The process according to Claim 19, wherein the enzyme is a phytase or lipase.

25-26. (canceled)

27. (currently amended) [[A]] The process according to Claim 25, comprising oxidizing said carbohydrate to obtain a carbonyl-containing carbohydrate containing at least 1 cyclic monosaccharide chain group carrying a carbaldehyde group per 25 monosaccharide units and per molecule.

28-30. (canceled)

31. (currently amended) An oxidized carbohydrate, wherein said carbohydrate is selected from the group consisting of polysaccharides of alpha-glucan, mannan, galactan, fructan, and chitin types, and carbohydrate glycosides, containing 2 to 50 cyclic monosaccharide groups carrying a carbaldehyde group per 50 monosaccharide units and per molecule, or a carboxyalkyl derivative ~~obtained by further oxidation or carboxylalkylation~~ thereof.

32. (currently amended) [[An]] The oxidized carbohydrate according to Claim 31, containing at least 5 monosaccharide units per molecule.

33-36. (cancelled)

37. (currently amended) [[A]] The process according to Claim 20, wherein said di-tert-nitroxyl compound is 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidin-1-oxyl (TEMPO).

38. (currently amended) [[A]] The process according to Claim 22, wherein said peroxidase is horse radish, soy-bean, lignin peroxidase or myelo- or lacto-peroxidase.

39. (canceled)